

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A polyimide compound crosslinked with polyamine which is soluble in a solvent containing aprotic polar organic solvent, wherein said polyimide compound is obtained by dehydration and condensation of amino acid or salt thereof in the presence of polyamine and protonic acid in the solvent containing aprotic polar organic solvent and 0.05 to 10 mol% of said polyamine is used with respect to the amount of said amino acid or salt thereof, and wherein a concentration of the obtained polyimide compound in the reaction mixture is 5 to 80% by weight.

2. (Original) The polyimide compound according to claim 1, wherein said polyimide compound is soluble in said solvent containing the aprotic polar organic solvent in a concentration of 5% by mass or more at 25°C.

3. (Previously Presented) The polyimide compound according to claim 2, wherein said polyimide compound is succinimide polymer.

4. (Previously Presented) The polyimide compound according to claim 3, wherein said aprotic polar organic solvent is a solvent containing N,N-dimethylformamide and/or sulfolane.

5. (Previously Presented) The polyimide compound according to claim 4, wherein said polyamine is lysine or ornithine.

6. - 11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) A solution containing a polyimide compound according to claim 1.

13. (Previously Presented) A cosmetic containing a polyamino acid polymer derived from polyimide compound according claim 1.

14. (Previously Presented) An external preparation containing a polyamino acid polymer derived from the polyimide compound according to claim 1.

15. (Previously Presented) The polyimide compound according to claim 1, wherein said polyimide compound is succinimide polymer.

16. (Previously Presented) The polyimide compound according to claim 15, wherein said aprotic polar organic solvent is a solvent containing N,N-dimethylformamide and/or sulfolane.

17. (Previously Presented) The polyimide compound according to claim 2, wherein said aprotic polar organic solvent is a solvent containing N,N-dimethylformamide and/or sulfolane.

18. (Previously Presented) The polyimide compound according to claim 1, wherein said aprotic polar organic solvent is a solvent containing N,N-dimethylformamide and/or sulfolane.

19. (Previously Presented) The polyimide compound according to claim 18, wherein said polyamine is lysine or ornithine.

20. (Previously Presented) The polyimide compound according to claim 17, wherein said polyamine is lysine or ornithine.

21. (Previously Presented) The polyimide compound according to claim 16, wherein said polyamine is lysine or ornithine.

22. (Previously Presented) The polyimide compound according to claim 15, wherein said polyamine is lysine or ornithine.

23. (Previously Presented) The polyimide compound according to claim 3, wherein said polyamine is lysine or ornithine.

24. (Previously Presented) The polyimide compound according to claim 2, wherein said polyamine is lysine or ornithine.

25. (Previously Presented) The polyimide compound according to claim 1, wherein said polyamine is lysine or ornithine.